

From: [Linda Hormes](#)
To: [Justin Cohen](#)
Cc: [Kristin Kenausis](#); [Linc Wehrly](#); [Lisa Snapp](#)
Subject: Re: Forbesauto.com queries...
Date: 02/28/2008 02:15 PM

I'm always surprised at the confusion the public has between Air Pollution and Greenhouse Gases. **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

Here are some draft responses. Question 6 will need to be answered by Lisa or Kristin. Also, please confirm my responses. I've answered most of these questions many times via the GVG email I get!

Linda

▼ [Justin Cohen/DC/USEPA/US](#)

**Justin
Cohen/DC/USEPA/US**

02/28/2008 01:49 PM

To: Linda Hormes/AA/USEPA/US@EPA, Lisa Snapp/AA/USEPA/US@EPA, Kristin Kenausis/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Linc Wehrly/AA/USEPA/US@EPA

cc

Subject: Forbesauto.com queries...

Hi there, Experts!

Help! ForbesAuto.com needs responses to these queries by tomorrow morning. If I can even just get quick thoughts on these, I'll be happy to pretty them up. They look pretty straightforward, but I'd feel better having your input.

I'm not sure exactly who would handle each of these among you, but knowing how responsive you guys always are, I'll just go ahead and put them out there.

We may end up answering a few Qs on background but mostly the reporter will probably end up attributing the final responses to an OPA spokesperson.

It looks like it could be a good opportunity to plug the web site and you work! Thanks much --

1. Is a given vehicle's greenhouse gases (carbon footprint) rating 100 percent dependent upon its fuel economy, or are there other factors also considered?

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this information is
<http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/Aboutratings.do#aboutgreenhouse>.

2. Would it be safe to say that all else being equal, choosing a model that gets better fuel economy will pollute less than one getting fewer miles per gallon?

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Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

3. The Green Car Guide lists diesel cars as being among the worst polluters, yet the EPA rates the Mercedes-Benz E320 "Bluetec" diesel as having a respectable 8.1 carbon footprint (but is not rated for its air pollution score)—again, would you know whether this a result of its higher fuel economy or something else (the Bluetec emissions-cleansing technology, for example)?

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4. Regarding flex-fuel vehicles, why does a model running on E85 show a lower carbon footprint in the EPA's ratings than it does when running on gasoline, even though it gets lower fuel economy (i.e. does corn-based E85 burn "cleaner," all else being equal than gas?) E85

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5. What kinds of reactions has the EPA gotten from consumers (and the industry) since it began including the air pollution index and greenhouse gas ratings along with fuel economy for each model sold in the U.S.?

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6. Any plans to expand the environmental impact ratings for new cars in the future?

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